

Child Welfare Advisory Committee Structure
Division of Children and Family Services
August 2006

Background: The Division of Children and Family Services currently uses the PEP Implementation Team as a child welfare advisory committee structure. The PEP Team has a large membership with four PEP subcommittees in the areas of child welfare case process, out-of-home care, adoption and continuous quality improvement. The PEP Team has an Executive Steering Committee which works with DCFS on establishing direction for the full PEP Team and agendas for quarterly meetings. DCFS is required under federal Title IV-B regulations to have an advisory committee for developing the annual state plan for federal child welfare funds and an advisory committee structure is necessary for the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process.

DCFS has other advisory committees in place that also provide input into child welfare policy and program development and implementation:

- Child Welfare Training Council
- eWiSACWIS Advisory Committee
- Tribal Child Welfare Workgroup (*)
- Foster and Adoptive Parents Association
- Citizen Review Panels
- Governor's Council on Domestic Violence
- Foster Youth Advisory Committee (*)

Note: () Required stakeholder group for federal CFSR process*

Issue: Sustaining involvement of a large membership in the PEP Implementation Team has been a challenge. There is active participation in the PEP subcommittees and strong interest in continuing the committees to work on child welfare policy and program issues after the PEP is completed.

DCFS proposes to create a Child Welfare Advisory Committee and Program Implementation Sub-Committees (using the existing PEP sub-committees)

Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) – Advise DCFS on state and federal policy issues, state budget and legislative issues, the federal CFSR process, and the annual federal Child and Family Services Plan (Title IV-B requirement). The CWAC would function as an executive steering committee and have a membership of approximately 20 persons, including county agencies, BMCW, State Training Council, and a few key stakeholder organizations. Other stakeholder organizations could continue to participate on the subcommittees. The CWAC would be chaired by the DCFS Administrator. All CWAC meetings will be open to the public and materials will continue to be posted to the PEP bulletin board for comments.

The CWAC should have linkages with WCHSA and the Children and Families Policy Advisory Committee, including some members who serve on the WCHSA Board and/or the C&F PAC.

Potential Membership:

- Wisconsin County Human Services Association (1)
- Children and Families PAC (1)
- State Training Council (1)
- Program Implementation Committee Chairs (4)
- Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (1)
- Division of Children and Family Services Administrator (1)
- Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (1)
- Director of State Courts Office (1)
- Division of Juvenile Corrections (1)
- Children's Trust Fund (1)
- Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's Agencies (1)
- Office of the Milwaukee Ombudsman for Child Welfare (1)
- Community Action Agency/WISCAP (1)
- Tribal (2)
- Program related – substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health (3)

Child Welfare Program Implementation Committees (PICs) – Use the existing PEP subcommittees as standing subcommittees of the CWAC responsible for working with DCFS on specific issues. The PICs would develop workgroups on specific topics as needed. The PICs would be co-chaired by county/program person and DCFS staff.

- Case Process Committee
- Out-of-Home Care Committee
- Adoption Committee
- Continuous Quality Improvement Committee

County/program co-chairs of the PICs would also be members of the full Child Welfare Advisory Committee.

The PICs, along with other advisory committees would continue to use the Bulletin Board to post information on policy issues for public comment.